

Chatham Oct 13

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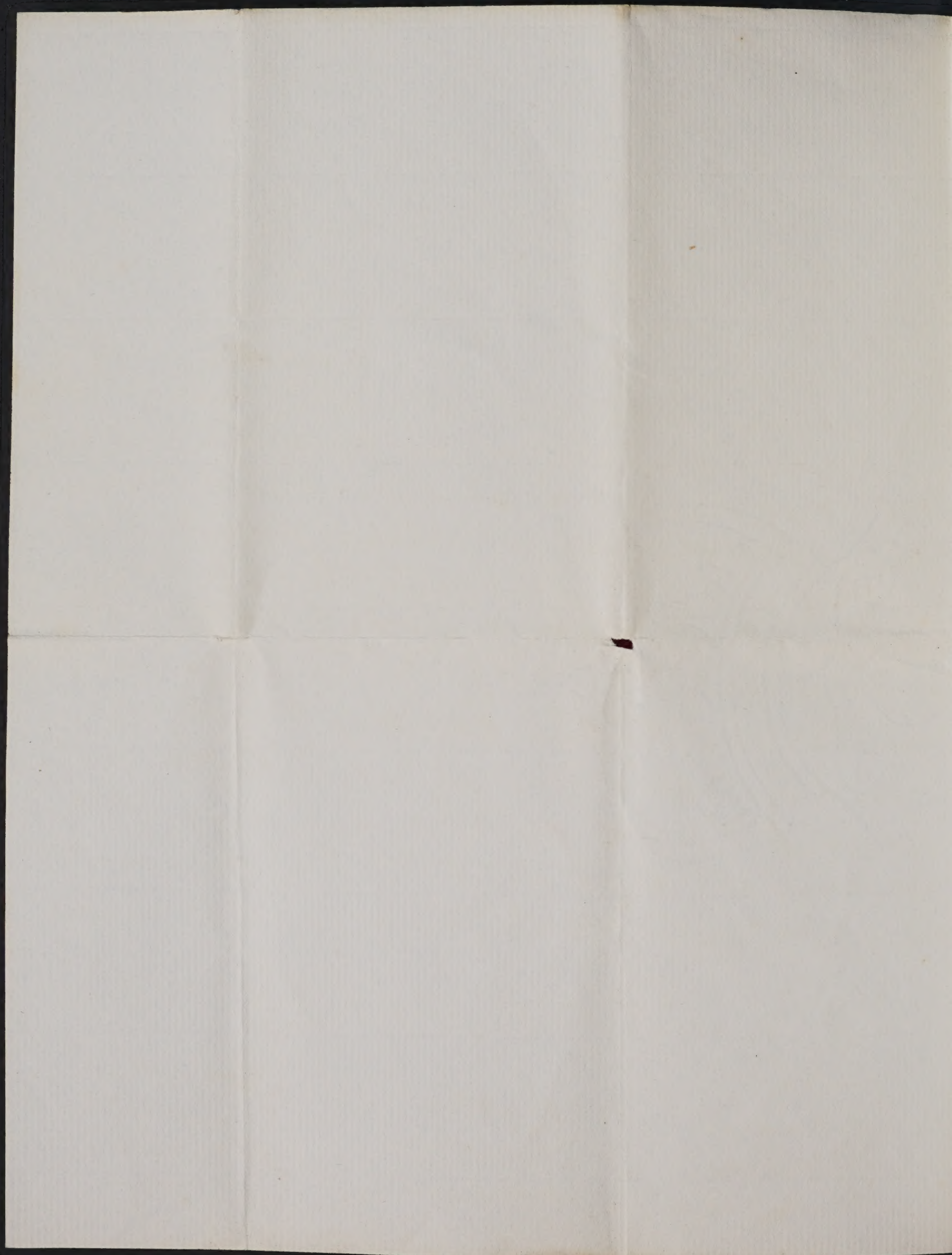
Dear Sir,

I really am very sorry for the delay that has occurred in your receiving an answer to your letter, Mr Currey, my auditor, to whom I had expressed my great unwillingness to be President of the Shakespeare Society, undertook to write to you - He has been absent for some days but has this morning returned, & I find has been by much business prevented from fulfilling his intentions.

I have received also your second letter, & I have only to say that for the same reasons that prevented my being President of the Camden Society I decline accepting the proposal you now make.

Believe me, most sincerely yours

Deanshire.



Having refused, it requires courage to ask.
but I want you to do something for me. A
friend of mine has a room decorated with
medallions of the authors named below.

Instead of writing merely their names above
them it is desired to place short inscriptions
from either their own or other distinguished writers
works.

For instance it was proposed to write over the
medallion of Shakspeare Johnson's line
"Exhausted worlds and then imagined new"

You can, better than any body supply my friend
with what I want — Do it quickly, and you
will much oblige me, and prove your forgiveness
of my obstinate resistance.

Two lines should be the utmost length of the
quotations.

Chaucer

Spenser

Shakspeare

Milton

Dryden

Addison

Pope

Johnson

Goldsmith

Byron

Scott.

